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FLOOR DEBATE

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put into a statewide enhancement fund because we want to keep it in Lincoln. And I think that's totally inconsistent with the overall objective of getting broadband telecommunications available around the state. That's not the philosophy of the Universal Service Fund, either state or federal, and it's not the philosophy of this enhancement fund to say that you must use the money within the confines of your political subdivision, and that's just not the philosophy behind the bill. I do agree with some of the things that have been said. I disagree with the proposition that this bill takes away any incentive to use the dark fiber or to provide the dark fiber by a municipal electric system or by a power system, and here's why. Generally those entities seem to espouse a community public service commitment. If it is in the community interest or the public service commitment to have broadband high-speed telecommunications service for that factory or for the residents...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ...or for the hospital or for the school, then I expect that municipal electric system or that public power district, in taking the community betterment attitude as a public entity, to support that, and if they have the dark fiber, to make it available through whatever means is most efficient to get that high-speed service in there. I'm counting on that partnership and that cooperation. Now if I'm missing something, they need to come forward and tell me that that's not part of their public service commitment. It seems to be part of their commitment if they can own it and control it and make money off of it, but not part of their commitment if they have to furnish it and allow the profit to go to the public interests. So that's where I want to nail down that philosophy. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Mr. Clerk, is there a priority motion on the desk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hartnett would move to recess until 1:30 p.m.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The motion is to recess, by Senator Hartnett,